



# Healthy Social-Emotional Development in Early Childhood: A Cornerstone of Primary Prevention

2022 National Child Abuse Prevention Month Virtual Event



## Head Start Programs and Child Welfare Partnerships

### Partnering With Child Welfare Agencies: An Overview



## Some of the Benefits to Head Start/ Child Welfare Partnerships

- Young children are the most vulnerable to maltreatment. This is the age group that Head Start and Early Head Start programs serve.
- Participation in quality early education programs can help reduce involvement in the child welfare system.
- Children in foster care are automatically eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start programs, even if family income exceeds the income guidelines.
- Head Start and Early Head Start programs can provide access to resources that can help families address challenges that could result in child welfare involvement.
- Head Start and Early Head Start programs offer an opportunity to address inequities for children of color.

Learn more at [eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov).

# Common Ground for Protecting Children and Strengthening Families

An infographic describing protective capacities and protective factors, both of which are used to strengthen consistency in services and promote child and family well-being.

Child welfare practitioners use varied but complementary frameworks for assessing child safety and working with families. A shared understanding of definitions and common ground can help strengthen consistency in services for families.

## PROTECTIVE CAPACITIES FRAMEWORK

**Protective capacities<sup>1</sup>** are caregiver characteristics directly related to child safety. A caregiver with these characteristics ensures the safety of his or her child and responds to threats in ways that keep the child safe from harm. Building protective capacities contributes to a reduction in risk.



## PROTECTIVE FACTORS FRAMEWORK

**Protective factors<sup>2</sup>** are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that reduce risk and promote healthy development and well-being of children and families, today and in the future.



## THE COMMON GROUND

Both frameworks are strength-based approaches to assess, intervene, and serve families. By prioritizing both protective capacities at the individual level and protective factors at the individual, family, and community levels, we can best ensure child safety and promote child and family well-being.



Access more information through the Capacity Building Center for States at <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states> and Child Welfare Information Gateway at <https://www.childwelfare.gov>.

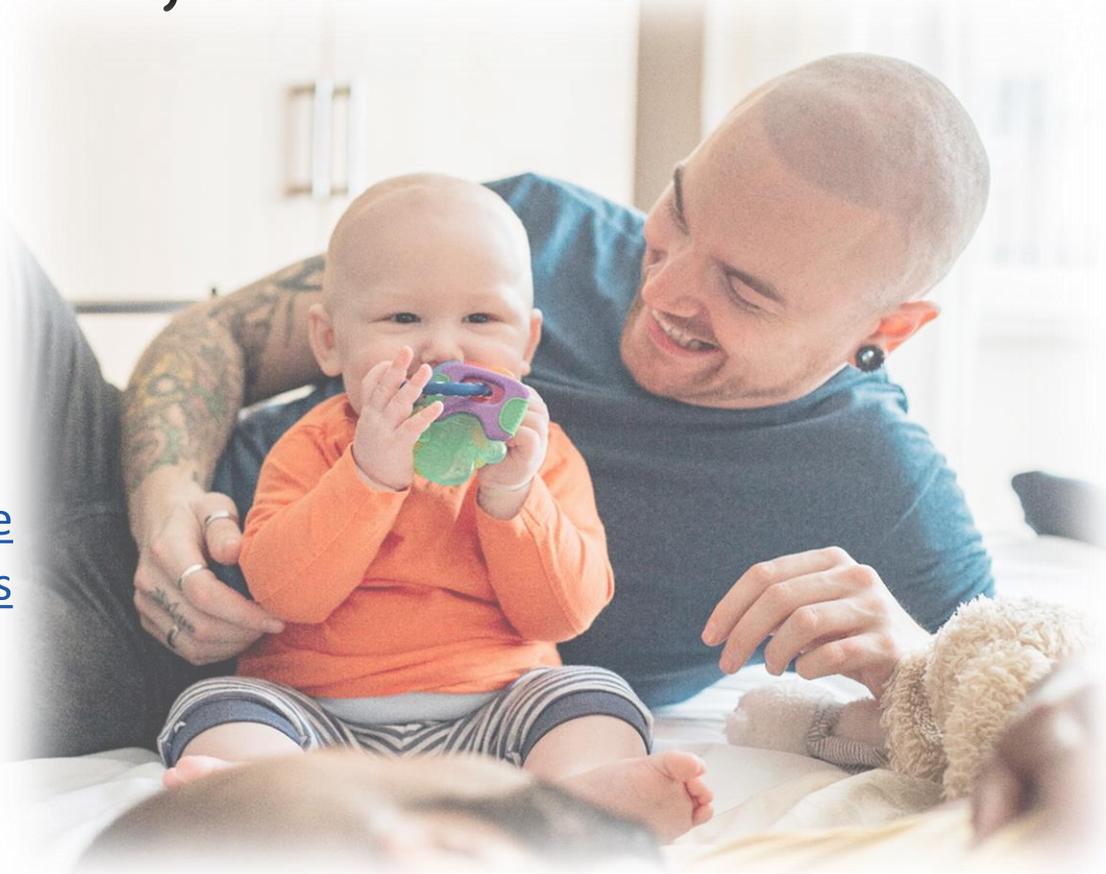
<sup>1</sup> ATOX for Child Protection conceptualized and developed the Cognitive Protective Capacities as a component of a comprehensive safety practice model (SAFE Safety Assessment and Family Evaluation).

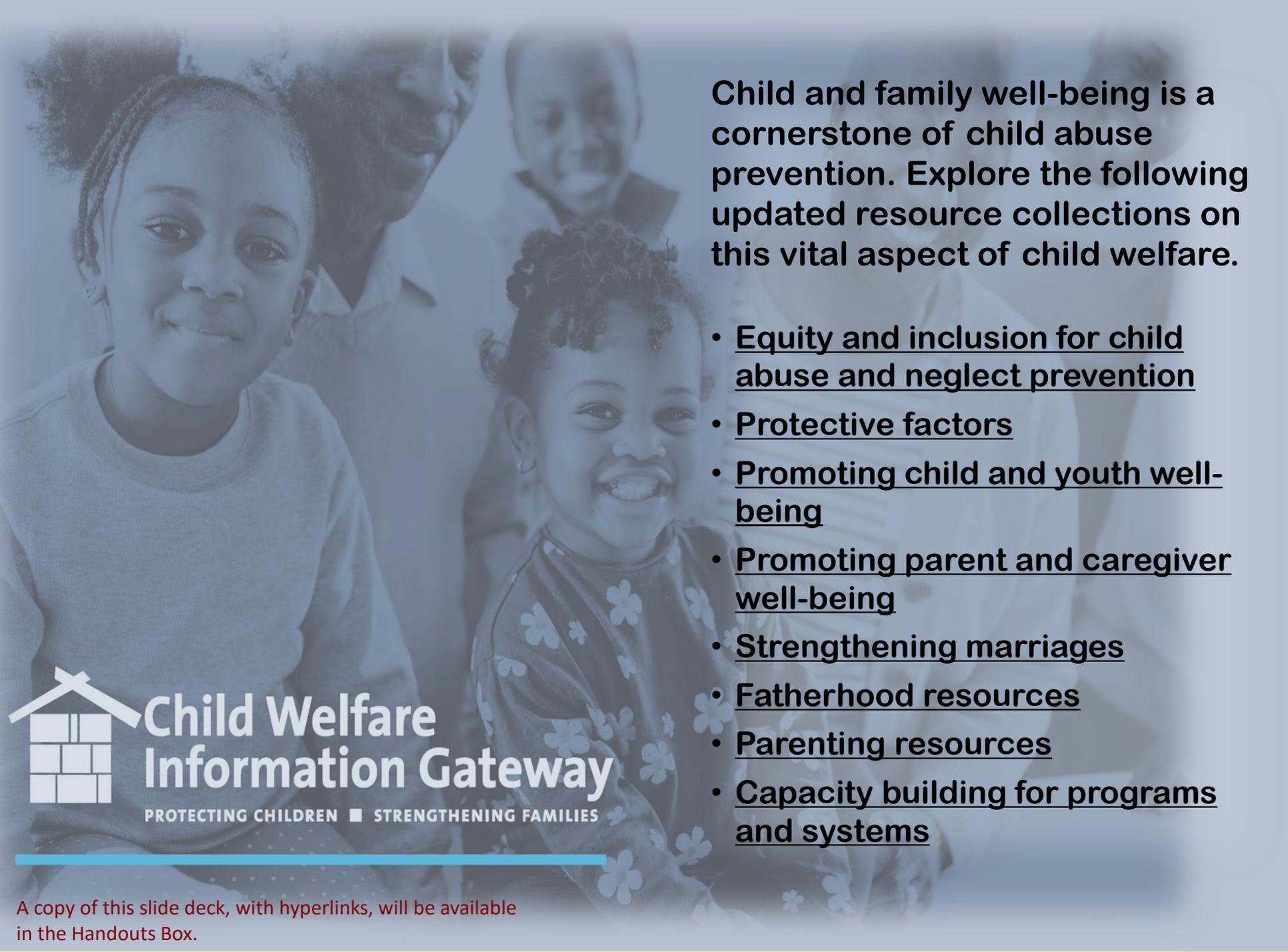
<sup>2</sup> The Children's Bureau uses a previous factors framework adapted from the Strengthening Families Framework developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, with the addition of a sixth factor, nurturing and attachment.



# Investing in Children, Youth & Families

President Biden's fiscal year 2023 budget includes a robust set of proposals that will significantly increase funding and improve quality for children, youth, and families who are involved with the child welfare system. [Read Associate Commissioner Aysha E. Schomburg's blog post](#) to learn more.





Child and family well-being is a cornerstone of child abuse prevention. Explore the following updated resource collections on this vital aspect of child welfare.

- Equity and inclusion for child abuse and neglect prevention
- Protective factors
- Promoting child and youth well-being
- Promoting parent and caregiver well-being
- Strengthening marriages
- Fatherhood resources
- Parenting resources
- Capacity building for programs and systems

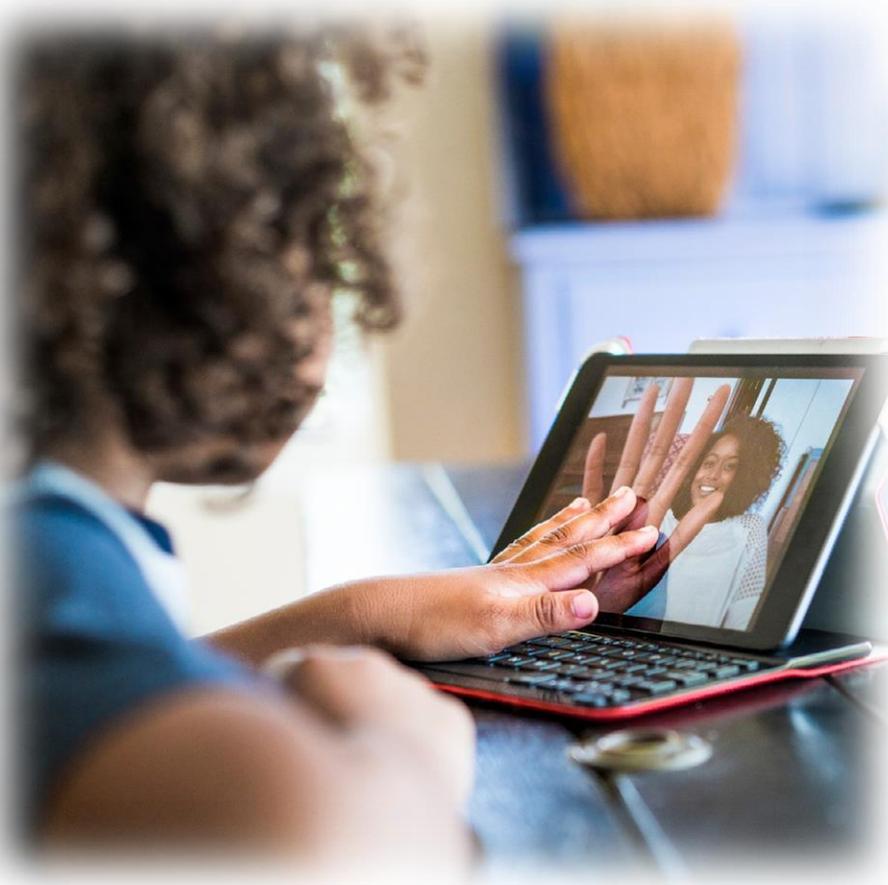




# Families Impacted by Incarceration

Children who experience the incarceration of a parent may experience trauma comparable to the loss of a parent through death or divorce. These tip sheets provide practical steps to maintaining the parent-child bond during parental incarceration, including developmentally appropriate guidance for supporting effective visits and communication at every age and stage.

Learn more at [cblcc.acf.hhs.gov](https://cblcc.acf.hhs.gov).





The **Culturally Effective Organizations Toolkit** has seven elements and related supporting resources. This wealth of information will be helpful in your efforts to build organizational capacity to serve everyone well, as necessary groundwork on the path to equity. Visit the page at: [Culturally Effective Organizations | Friends NRC](#)

Head Start



Heals

When children and families are exposed to traumatic events or situations that overwhelm their ability to cope, Head Start programs are uniquely positioned to provide protective factors, such as strong, trusting relationships and safe, stable environments that promote healing for children, families, and staff.

The Head Start Heals campaign supports increased awareness about how programs can help. Learn more at [eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov).

# Share Your Thoughts

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ACF has published a *Federal Register Notice* soliciting public comment on Technical Assistance Needs and Priorities on Implementation and Coordination of Early Childhood Development Programs in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. The public comment period has been extended to May 20, 2022.

Questions, comments, and supplementary documents can be submitted to [OCCTribal@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:OCCTribal@acf.hhs.gov). Please put “Tribal TA RFI” in the Subject line.





# Save the Date!

May 26, 2022

2:00 – 2:45 p.m. Eastern

The Children's Bureau Learning & Coordination Center (CBLCC) is hosting a Digital Dialogue on supporting kinship caregivers.

Additional information is [coming soon!](#)



A copy of this slide deck, with hyperlinks, will be available in the Handouts Box.